



Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8194th meeting

Wednesday, 28 February 2018, 10.10 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait)

Members:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
China	Mr. Wu Haitao
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoue
Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Ndong Mba
Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
France	Mr. Delattre
Kazakhstan	Mr. Tumysh
Netherlands	Mr. Van Oosterom
Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
Poland	Ms. Wronecka
Russian Federation	Mr. Polyanskiy
Sweden	Mr. Orrenius Skau
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	Mr. Allen
United States of America	Ms. Tachco

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (S/2018/110)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (S/2018/110)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2018/164, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Côte d'Ivoire.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2018/110, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make a statement before the voting.

Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoue (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): In its capacity as penholder on the issue on today's agenda, our delegation has the pleasure of presenting draft resolution S/2018/164, which has been submitted for our consideration with a view to the renewal until 28 February 2019 of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). This balanced draft reflects the realities on the ground, and its crafting enjoyed the full and comprehensive cooperation of all.

My delegation wishes to thank, on behalf of the three African members of the Security Council, all of the States members of the Council that participated in a constructive spirit during the consultations and negotiations leading to the elaboration of this draft resolution. Our hope is that the draft, which enjoys the support of all member States and of other stakeholders, will meet with the approval of the Council so that it can be adopted by consensus.

In essence, the draft resolution takes note of the Secretary-General's report on Guinea-Bissau dated 9 February 2018 (S/2018/110), extends strong support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General

and proposes an extension of the mandate of UNIOGBIS for a period of one year, until 28 February 2019.

Through this draft, the Security Council voices its concern vis-à-vis the persistent political and institutional crisis that has been stoked by the main Guinea-Bissau political actors. In this regard, the Security Council urgently calls on the stakeholders to put the interests of the people above all other considerations and calls upon the Government of Guinea-Bissau to adopt concrete measures to ensure peace, security and stability in the country.

Furthermore, the Security Council stresses the importance of holding legislative elections in 2018 and presidential elections in 2019. To that end, the Council calls for implementation of the recommendation of the strategic review mission concerning the need for UNIOGBIS to refocus its efforts by availing itself of the good offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and by supporting, inter alia, the full implementation of the Conakry Agreement and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) road map, while facilitating an inclusive political dialogue, the national reconciliation process and the upcoming electoral process, with a view to ensuring the holding of inclusive, free and credible legislative elections in 2018, within the timetable set forth in the mandate of the Council. It further commends the crucial role played by the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau and welcomes the extension until 31 March 2018 of its mandate.

In that same vein, the Council supports the efforts of ECOWAS and of the African Union to secure an expeditious settlement to the crisis plaguing Guinea-Bissau and welcomes the decision of ECOWAS of 4 February 2018 imposing sanctions on those obstructing the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, which is the sole consensus-based framework for arriving at a lasting solution to the crisis. The Council also commends international partners, including the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries for their concerted efforts to step up cooperation with the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

Lastly, the Council extends its willingness and readiness to take additional measures in the event of any deterioration in the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

To conclude, my delegation wishes to formally call on the Security Council and bilateral and multilateral

partners to continue to support Guinea-Bissau, in the interests of the civilians in that country.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2404 (2018).

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make a statement after the voting.

Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): After several weeks of discussions and negotiations, the members of the Council have decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) for another year, thereby expressing the commitment of the United Nations to continuing to participate in the process of resolving the political and institutional crisis in Guinea-Bissau. The efforts of the international community to find a peaceful solution to the crisis must persuade the leaders of Guinea-Bissau to give clear signs of their willingness to overcome their differences and restore sustainable democratic governance.

My Government, led by his Excellency Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, continues to reiterate the need for the political actors to fully implement the Conakry Agreement. The appointment of Mr. Arturo Da Silva as Prime Minister continues to be questioned and rejected by the Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et de Cabo Verde, which makes it difficult, on the one hand, to form an inclusive Government, and on the other to do the necessary updating of the electoral census and hold the election by the Assembly National of the members of the National Electoral Commission, which are preconditions to holding the democratic elections in 2018 and 2019.

The extension of UNIOGBIS is justified by the need to provide technical assistance to the national authorities and to expedite and reform the legislation necessary for the maintenance of the constitutional order, the promotion and protection of human rights and the organization of legislative and presidential elections. The United Nations team should continue to provide strategic advice and support to the national authorities and stakeholders in the implementation of justice reform strategies, with a view to establishing civil, military and penitentiary systems, in accordance with international standards, and in fighting the drug trafficking and transnational organized crime affecting the subregion.

Regional and subregional initiatives play an important role in resolving the political stagnation in Guinea-Bissau. Equatorial Guinea again commends the role of mediation assumed by the African Union and the series of consultations carried out in mid-January by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with the main political actors to assess the implementation of the Conakry Agreement, and supports the measures taken by ECOWAS against certain individuals who are obstructing a peaceful solution to the prolonged crisis.

However, Equatorial Guinea stresses the fact that there is no open military confrontation in Guinea-Bissau but a deep misunderstanding among the political actors that has led the country to an institutional blockade. In such an environment, it is difficult to achieve consensus among all parties, as stipulated in the Conakry Agreement, as we are seeing in the case of the recent appointment of Prime Minister Arturo Da Silva.

Equatorial Guinea, as a member of the Security Council, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, and as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) concerning Guinea-Bissau, is of the view that sanctions should not be the only way to unblock the current situation in the country. There must be pragmatic and direct involvement to help the political actors reach a compromise solution that will pave the way towards the preparations for this year's upcoming legislative elections. To that end, the delegation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea proposes that the members of the Security Council maintain close contact with the political actors of that country with a view to finding a committed solution

to end the impasse created by the lack of consensus in decisions taken by the parties.

The year 2018 should bring a sense of renewed hope and the reaffirmed commitment of the international community to continue helping Guinea-Bissau and its people and prospects for economic growth. I conclude by acknowledging ECOWAS, the African Union and UNIOGBIS for their efforts to find a solution to the crisis in that brotherly country.

Ms. Tachco (United States of America): The United States wishes to thank Côte d'Ivoire for its steadfast work as penholder for resolution 2404 (2018), and we also wish to thank our fellow Council members for their collaboration during the negotiations.

The United States believes that the resolution we have just adopted will bring about a real improvement to the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau. With a streamlined mandate, the mission can focus even more on its good offices to help deliver an end to the stalemate that has not only frustrated the Council but, more importantly, has hurt the citizens of Guinea-Bissau for far too long.

That stalemate was created out of selfishness and intransigence. We again call on President Vaz, Prime Minister Da Silva, the leader of the Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et de Cabo Verde, Mr. Pereira, and others in the Guinea-Bissau leadership to work together for the sake of their people and forge consensus to get Government working again. Guinea-Bissau's leaders have had many chances to fix the Government gridlock since the Conakry Agreement was signed in October 2016. They have ignored those chances and taken actions that purposefully contradicted the Agreement.

The bold move taken by the Economic Community of West African States' (ECOWAS) to push those impeding the process through targeted sanctions comes from a desire to induce them to become part of the solution instead. As it did in The Gambia, ECOWAS is proving to be an example for regional organizations everywhere in its willingness to take significant challenging steps to improve lives across West Africa. As I said in the Chamber two weeks ago (see S/PV.8182), time is running out and our patience has expired. Guinea-Bissau's leaders must make this time different, and come out and do what is right.

Mr. Polyanskiy (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation supported the adoption of resolution 2404 (2018), extending the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau. In taking that decision, we were guided by the importance of maintaining consensus within the Security Council. We also took into account the hopes expressed by our African partners.

In that regard, we wish to stress that the acknowledgment contained in the document of instances of restrictions imposed by the Economic Community of West African States on a number of Guinea-Bissau actors does not signify their approval by the Council. Once again, we note the fact that the only legitimate international sanctions are those imposed by the Security Council, in line with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. We object to any attempt, through the Council, to introduce wording that would distort that fundamental principle in international law or use it to legitimize unilateral restrictions, regardless of any noble intentions that may be advanced.

Our approach to the matter is well known. Unilateral sanctions, especially those imposed in addition to measures already agreed by the Security Council, are a path to nowhere. Not only do they not help to resolve crises but, as practice shows, they only serve to further escalate them.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): We thank Côte d'Ivoire for its arduous work in trying to ensure the support of the Security Council for the efforts of the West African region to resolve the deadlock in Guinea-Bissau. We continue to support and endorse the mediation efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its imposition of sanctions. ECOWAS has consistently demonstrated that, when united, it has the ability to act as the region's power-broker, as it did in the crisis in The Gambia last year. Like then, the Council should also firmly demonstrate its support for ECOWAS in assuming that role and responsibility.

The African Union has unequivocally supported the efforts of ECOWAS and has, through its Chairperson, asked us to follow suit. The political actors in Guinea-Bissau should realize that resolution 2404 (2018), adopted today, speaks in clear words of the Council's readiness to take additional measures to respond to the possible further worsening of the situation in the country. We hope that it is a message that will resonate

in Guinea-Bissau and be heard by ECOWAS and the African Union.

The resolution supports the concerted action taken thus far to achieve tangible progress in finally resolving the Guinea-Bissau crisis. Let us all continue

to support the concerted action of the five actors on the ground: ECOWAS, the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the United Nations and the European Union.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.